

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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Soviets in Albania

1. Soviet instructors and advisors are attached to all Government Ministries and to industrial enterprises. As many as two to five Soviet advisors are assigned to the office of a government Minister and his assistant Ministers. In the Ministry of People's Defense, Soviet advisors are assigned to the office of the Chief of Directorates and sometimes to the subordinate branches. As a general rule, their relations are limited to the higher echelon only and have no dealings with subordinate units within the Ministries. Although behind the scene comments have been made about the Soviet advisors' lack of ability, they are obeyed and are "always right" in what they say or do.
2. High officials in the Albanian Government, technicians and army officers are constantly being sent to the Soviet Union for training. Arrangements are made through the Soviet Embassy.
3. Soviet instructors do not mingle with Albanians. They frequent their own clubs, and messes and have never been known to visit Albanian homes; nor do their families fraternize with Albanians. The main Soviet club is located in the old Parliament building where they hold their own Party meetings. At the Stalin Combine, the Soviet technicians have their own mess where special food is served. Their names are not known to any but top level officials who work with them.
3. Since 1948, the Sovietization of Albania has been complete and all policies and their implementation can be attributed directly to Moscow. Many senior officers in the army and Sigurimi have taken training courses in the Soviet Union. The

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[Former] Minister of Interior, Mehmet Shehu, issued an order that all Sigurimi officers must, in time, undergo training in the Soviet Union. The appointment of Shehu as Prime Minister appears to be the culmination of a process in which strong Moscow supporters have attained supremacy in the Albanian Government. Shehu spent some time in the Soviet Union. He never had Tito's portrait in his home even prior to 1948 and his children were taught to praise Stalin.

4. A special feature of the annual celebration of Albanian-Soviet friendship month under the sponsorship of the Albanian-Soviet Friendship Society is the soliciting of promises from workers to exceed their quotas of work. After the local Party committee has made its plan, they call a public meeting where Party members publicly proclaim to exceed their production norms and state that only those who hate the Communist regime and the Soviet Union would refuse to join in making pledges to produce more. It is impossible for a worker not to join in the pledge because abstention is looked upon as criticism of the Government and the Soviet Union. This is dangerous and can mean punishment or possible arrest.
5. The Albanian officials who visit the Soviet Union are conducted on a grand tour of inspection. Pilo Peristeri, Chief of the General Trade Union was well received by his Soviet hosts during his trip to the Soviet Union. He visited the Trade Union offices and gained much experience in observing their methods. After a months stay, he returned to Albania and much propaganda was made of his visit. These tours are the result of efforts by the Soviet Embassy to sell the Soviet Union to the Albanians. The initiative does not stem from the Albanian Government.

#### Scarcity of Commodities

6. Much propaganda is made of Soviet economic assistance, but the people have not benefited.
7. The ration system is grossly inadequate. People have to get up in the early hours of the morning to queue for a small piece of meat. When a family gathers around the table for its meal, the talk is of the old days when food was cheap and plentiful. One non-Communist told his Communist brother at meal time that he was going to the chemist to get some medicine. When asked what type of medicine, he said, "Something to stop my appetite." It is also said that if the Soviet instructors were to give away one spoonful of what they eat, the people of Albania would have sufficient food.
8. The people have received little in return for their industry. They see their produce leaving the country for the benefit of the Soviet bloc countries. Products from the Stalin Textile Combine went first to the army, then for export. Very little has gone to the people. Much propaganda was made over the new sugar refinery at Maliqi. Scores of speeches were made promising cheap and abundant sugar. In fact, a small amount is rationed to the people and the bulk is exported. Items which were once in abundance, such as cheese, skins, oranges, olives and olive oil are exported and available to the people in limited quantities only. Products from mining such as copper, chrome and oil which should be helping the national economy, now that the mines are being worked to capacity, are shipped abroad.

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